

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Improving Customer Service

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.
ACTION: Request for information.

SUMMARY: Consistent with Executive Order 13781, “Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch,” and using the authority of the Secretary to reorganize the Department under section 4(a) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is soliciting public comment on a proposed realignment of the Departmental Administration organization that will improve customer service, better align functions within the organization, and ensure improved strategic decision-making.

DATES: Comments and information are requested on or before March 2, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this notice. All submissions must refer to “Improving Customer Service” to ensure proper delivery.

- *Electronic Submission of Comments.* Interested persons may submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. USDA strongly encourages commenters to submit comments electronically. Electronic submission of comments allows the commenter maximum time to prepare and submit a comment, and ensures timely receipt by USDA. Commenters should follow the instructions provided on that site to submit comments electronically.

- *Submission of Comments by Mail, Hand delivery, or Courier.* Paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions should be submitted to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, USDA, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 240-W, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Johanna Briscoe, 202-720-291, Johanna.Briscoe@dm.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: USDA is committed to operating efficiently, effectively, and with integrity, and minimizing the burdens on individuals, businesses, and communities for participation in and compliance with USDA programs. USDA works to support the American agricultural economy to strengthen rural communities; to protect and conserve our natural resources; and to provide a safe, sufficient, and nutritious food supply for the American people. The Department’s wide range of programs and responsibilities touches the lives of every American every day.

I. Executive Orders 13781

Executive Order 13781, “Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch”, is intended to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of the executive branch. The principles in the Executive Order provide the basis for taking actions to enhance and strengthen the delivery of USDA programs.

II. Reorganization Actions

Secretary Perdue intends to take actions to strengthen customer service and improve efficiencies at USDA by taking the following actions:

- Establishing a Customer Experience Office within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration to coordinate agency actions that will improve customer service across the Department;
- Establishing the Office of Property and Fleet Management, and realigning the property, fleet, and hazardous materials management functions of the Office of Procurement and Property Management (OPPM) into the new office;
- Realigning the workers’ compensation and safety program out of OPPM into the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM);
- Transferring the directives program and records management function from the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to the Office of the Executive Secretariat (OES);
- Realigning the classified network management and the controlled unclassified information functions from OCIO to the Office of Homeland Security (OHS); and

- Renaming OPPM the Office of Contracting and Procurement.

III. Request for Information

USDA is seeking public comment on these actions and notes that this notice is issued solely for information and program-planning purposes. While responses to this notice do not bind USDA to any further actions, all submissions will be reviewed by the appropriate program office, and made publicly available on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Dated: January 31, 2018.

Donald Bice,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.

[FR Doc. 2018-02388 Filed 2-6-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-90-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Census Scientific Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) is giving notice of a meeting of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee (C-SAC). The Committee will address policy, research, and technical issues relating to a full range of Census Bureau programs and activities, including communications, decennial, demographic, economic, field operations, geographic, information technology, and statistics. The C-SAC will meet in a plenary session on March 29-30, 2018. Last minute changes to the schedule are possible, which could prevent giving advance public notice of schedule adjustments. Please visit the Census Advisory Committees website for the most current meeting agenda at: <http://www.census.gov/cac/>. The meeting will be available via webcast at: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/census-live.html>. Topics of discussion will include the following items:

- 2020 Census Systems and Operations
- Updates on Formal and Informal 2017 Outreach Activities
- Internet Self-Response Updates
- Administrative Records Updates
- New Annual Business Survey

- C-SAC Working Groups Progress Reports

DATES: March 29–30, 2018. On Thursday, March 29, the meeting will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 5:00 p.m. On Friday, March 30, the meeting will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 3:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Census Bureau Auditorium, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland 20746.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tara Dunlop Jackson, Branch Chief for Advisory Committees, Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office, tara.dunlop.jackson@census.gov, Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 8H177, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233, telephone 301-763-5222. For TTY callers, please use the Federal Relay Service 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The members of the C-SAC are appointed by the Director, U.S. Census Bureau. The Committee provides scientific and technical expertise, as appropriate, to address Census Bureau program needs and objectives. The Committee has been established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Title 5, United States Code, Appendix 2, Section 10).

All meetings are open to the public. A brief period will be set aside at the meeting for public comment on March 31. However, individuals with extensive questions or statements must submit them in writing to:

census.scientific.advisory.committee@census.gov (subject line “March 2018 C-SAC Meeting Public Comment”), or by letter submission to Tara Dunlop Jackson, Committee Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 8H177, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please register by Monday, March 26, 2018. You may access the online registration from the following link: https://www.regonline.com/csac_meeting_mar2018. Seating is available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Committee Liaison Officer as soon as known, and preferably two weeks prior to the meeting.

Due to increased security for access to the meeting, please call 301-763-9906 upon arrival at the Census Bureau on the day of the meeting. A photo ID must

be presented in order to receive your visitor's badge. Visitors are not allowed beyond the first floor.

Dated: January 31, 2018.

Ron S. Jarmin,

Associate Director for Economic Programs, Performing the Non-Exclusive Functions and Duties of the Director, Bureau of the Census.

[FR Doc. 2018-02424 Filed 2-6-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-570-072]

Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid and Derivative Products From the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

DATES: Applicable February 7, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Galantucci at (202) 482-2923 or Jonathan Hill at (202) 482-3518, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 20, 2017, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) initiated the countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of sodium gluconate, gluconic acid and derivative products from the People's Republic of China.¹ Currently, the preliminary determination is due no later than February 26, 2018.²

Postponement of the Preliminary Determination

Section 703(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires Commerce to issue the preliminary determination in a CVD investigation within 65 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation. However, section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act

¹ See *Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid, and Derivative Products from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 83 FR 499 (January 4, 2018).

² Commerce has exercised its discretion to toll deadlines for the duration of the closure of the Federal Government from January 20 through 22, 2018. See Memorandum, “Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,” dated January 23, 2018 (Tolling Memorandum). Accordingly, all deadlines in this segment of the proceeding have been extended by 3 days.

permits Commerce to postpone the preliminary determination until no later than 130 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation if a petitioner makes a timely request for a postponement. Under 19 CFR 351.205(e), a petitioner must submit a request for postponement 25 days or more before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination and must state the reason for the request. Commerce will grant the request unless it finds compelling reasons to deny the request.³

On January 23, 2018, PMP Fermentation Products, Inc. (the petitioner) submitted a timely request pursuant to section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(e) to postpone the preliminary determination. The petitioner stated that the purpose of its request was to provide Commerce with adequate time to solicit information from the respondents and to allow Commerce and interested parties sufficient time to analyze respondents' questionnaire responses.⁴

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioner has stated the reason for requesting a postponement of the preliminary determination and the record does not present any compelling reasons to deny the request. Therefore, in accordance with section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act, and in light of the closure of the Federal Government from January 20 through 22, 2018, Commerce is postponing the deadline for the preliminary determination to May 2, 2018.⁵ Pursuant to section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1), the deadline for the final determination will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination, unless postponed at a later date.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

Dated: February 2, 2018.

Gary Taverman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Operations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

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³ See 19 CFR 351.205(e).

⁴ See Letter from the petitioner to Commerce, “Countervailing Duty Investigation of Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid and Derivative Products (GNA Products) from the People's Republic of China: Petitioner's Request to Postpone the Preliminary Determination,” dated January 23, 2018.

⁵ Note that the revised deadline incorporates a 65-day postponement, *i.e.*, to 130 days after the date on which this investigation was initiated, in addition to a 3-day extension due to closure of the Federal Government.